

awards the subcontract and administers the performance-based payments, and include appropriately worded modifications similar to those noted in paragraph (e) of this section.

(g) When financing payments are in the form of commercial item purchase financing, the subcontract must include a contract financing clause structured in accordance with 32.206.

[65 FR 16281, Mar. 27, 2000, as amended at 67 FR 70521, Nov. 22, 2002]

Subpart 32.6—Contract Debts

32.600 Scope of subpart.

This subpart prescribes policies and procedures for the Government's actions in ascertaining and collecting contract debts, charging interest on the debts, deferring collections, and compromising and terminating certain debts.

32.601 Definition.

Responsible official, as used in this subpart, means the contracting officer (see subpart 2.1) or other official designated under agency procedures to administer the collection of contract debts and applicable interest.

32.602 General.

The contract debts covered in this subpart arise in various ways. The following are some examples:

- (a) Damages or excess costs related to defaults in performance.
- (b) Breach of contract obligations concerning progress payments, advance payments, or Government-furnished property or material.
- (c) Government expense of correcting defects.
- (d) Overpayments related to errors in quantity or billing or deficiencies in quality.
- (e) Retroactive price reductions resulting from contract terms for price redetermination or for determination of prices under incentive type contracts.
- (f) Overpayments disclosed by quarterly statements required under price redetermination or incentive contracts.
- (g) Delinquency in contractor payments due under agreements or ar-

rangements for deferral or postponement of collections.

(h) Reimbursement of costs, as provided in 33.102(b) and 33.104(h)(1), paid by the Government where a postaward protest is sustained as a result of an awardee's misstatement, misrepresentation, or miscertification.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 60 FR 48275, Sept. 18, 1995; 61 FR 41470, Aug. 8, 1996]

32.603 Applicability.

Except as otherwise specified, this subpart applies to all debts to the Government arising in connection with contracts and subcontracts for the acquisition of supplies or services, and debts arising from the Government's payment of costs, as provided in 33.102(b) and 33.104(h)(1), where a postaward protest is sustained as a result of an awardee's misstatement, misrepresentation, or miscertification.

[61 FR 41470, Aug. 8, 1996]

32.604 Exclusions.

This subpart does not apply to claims of the Government against military or civilian employees or their dependents arising in connection with current or past employment by the Government. Sections 32.613, 32.614, and 32.616 do not apply to claims against common carriers for transportation overcharges and freight and cargo losses.

32.605 Responsibilities and cooperation among Government officials.

(a) To protect the Government's interests, contracting officers, contract financing offices, disbursing officials, and auditors shall cooperate fully with each other to—

- (1) Discover promptly when a contract debt arises;
- (2) Ascertain the correct amount of the debt;
- (3) Act promptly and effectively to collect the debt;
- (4) Administer deferment of collection agreements; and
- (5) Provide up-to-date information on the status of the debt.

(b) For most kinds of contract debts, including reimbursement of protest costs, the contracting officer has the primary responsibility for determining

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the amounts of and collecting contract debt. Under some agency procedures, however, the individual who is responsible for payment under the contract; e.g., the disbursing officer, may have this primary responsibility.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 60 FR 48275, Sept. 18, 1995]

32.606 Debt determination and collection.

(a) If any indication of a contract debt arises, the responsible official shall determine promptly whether an actual debt is due the Government and the amount. Any unwarranted delay may contribute to—

(1) Loss of timely availability of the funds to the program for which the funds were initially provided;

(2) Increased difficulty in collecting the debt; or

(3) Actual monetary loss to the Government.

(b) In determining the amount of any contract debt, the responsible official shall fairly consider both the Government's claim and any contract claims by the contractor against the Government. This determination does not constitute a settlement of such claims, nor is it a contracting officer's final determination under the Contract Disputes Act of 1978.

(c) The responsible official shall establish a control record for each contract debt, to include at least the following information:

(1) The name and address of the contractor.

(2) The contract number, if any.

(3) A description of the debt.

(4) The amount of debt and the appropriation to be credited.

(5) The date the debt was determined.

(6) The dates of demands for payment.

(7) The amounts and dates of collections, as they occur.

(8) The date of any appeal filed or action brought in the Court of Claims under the Disputes clause.

(9) The status of collections. Examples include—

(i) Actions reported to the disbursing officer (name, location, and date);

(ii) Funds requested to be withheld by the disbursing officer;

(iii) Funds requested to be withheld by other offices (date and office);

(iv) Deferment or installment payment arrangement requested;

(v) Deferment or installment request reviewed;

(vi) Supplemental information requested to support deferment requests; and

(vii) Actions transferred to the contract financing office.

(d) Except in cases in which an agreement has been entered into for deferment of collections (32.613) or bankruptcy proceedings against the contractor have been initiated, the contractor shall be required to liquidate the debt by—

(1) Cash payment in a lump sum, on demand; or

(2) Credit against existing unpaid bills due the contractor.

(e) The responsible officials shall use all proper means available to them for collecting debts as rapidly as possible. Practices for ascertaining and collecting debts shall be comprehensive, dynamic, and as uniform as practicable. Full consideration shall be given to personal contact and followup.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 38517, Sept. 18, 1990]

32.607 Tax credit.

(a) If the contractor is entitled to a tax credit under section 1481 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1481) and requests recognition of the credit in the debt collection, the responsible official shall comply.

(b) The tax credit shall be considered to reduce the amount of the debt as of the date when interest on the debt begins to accrue.

(c) The amount of the debt reduction shall be the amount of the tax credit certificate, if a certificate was issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If the IRS has not yet issued a certificate, the responsible official may accept the contractor's estimate of the tax credit amount until the certificate is issued, subject to any verification that the responsible official considers appropriate.

(d) A reduction for a tax credit does not apply to a debt arising from a subcontract.

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32.608 Negotiation of contract debts.

(a) The responsible official shall ensure that any negotiations concerning debt determinations are completed expeditiously. If consistent with the contract, the official shall make a unilateral determination promptly if the contractor is delinquent in any of the following actions:

- (1) Furnishing pertinent information.
- (2) Negotiating expeditiously.
- (3) Entering into an agreement on a fair and reasonable price revision.
- (4) Signing an interim memorandum evidencing a negotiated pricing agreement involving refund.
- (5) Executing an appropriate contract modification reflecting the result of negotiations.

(b) The amount of indebtedness determined unilaterally shall be an amount that—

- (1) Is proper based on the merits of the case;
- (2) Does not exceed an amount that would have been considered acceptable in a negotiated agreement; and
- (3) Is consistent with the contract terms.

(c) For unilateral debt determinations, the contracting officer shall issue a decision as required by the clause at 52.233-1, Disputes. Such decision shall include a demand for payment (see 33.211(a)(4)(vi)). No demand for payment under 32.610 shall be issued prior to a contracting officer's final decision. A copy of the final decision shall be sent to the appropriate finance office.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 54 FR 34755, Aug. 21, 1989]

32.609 Memorandum of pricing agreement with refund.

(a) If a refund to the Government is agreed upon in negotiations under a price revision type of contract, the responsible official shall promptly write a memorandum to document the agreement and the contract debt. The memorandum shall be signed by the negotiators for the Government and the contractor. If the procedures of either the agency or the contractor require approval of the negotiation results by higher authority, the memorandum shall be written without prejudice to the final pricing. After negotiations

are completed, a supplemental agreement shall be executed without delay.

(b) The amount of refund shall be computed promptly, without waiting for itemization of adjustment of past billings, accounting adjustments, or the adjusted invoices.

32.610 Demand for payment of contract debt.

(a) A demand for payment shall be made as soon as the responsible official has computed the amount of refund due. If the debt arises from excess costs for a default termination, the demand shall be made without delay, as explained in 49.402-6.

(b) The demand shall include the following:

(1) A description of the debt, including the debt amount.

(2) Notification that any amounts not paid within 30 days from the date of the demand will bear interest from the date of the demand, or from any earlier date specified in the contract, and that the interest rate shall be the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the period affected, under Public Law 92-41. In the case of a debt arising from a price reduction for defective pricing, or as specifically set forth in a Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) clause in the contract, that interest will run from the date of overpayment by the Government until repayment by the contractor at the underpayment rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the periods affected, under 26 U.S.C. 6621(a)(2).

(3) A notification that the contractor may submit a proposal for deferment of collection if immediate payment is not practicable or if the amount is disputed.

(4) Identification of the responsible official designated for determining the amount of the debt and for its collection.

(c) If subparagraph (b)(3) of the clause at 52.232-17, Interest, applies, the demand mentioned in paragraph (a) above shall accompany or be included in the transmittal mentioned in the clause.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 54 FR 34755, Aug. 21, 1989; 55 FR 52794, Dec. 21, 1990; 56 FR 29128, June 25, 1991; 61 FR 18922, Apr. 29, 1996]

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32.611 Routine setoff.

If a disbursing officer is the responsible official for collection of a contract debt, or is notified of the debt by the responsible official and has contractor invoices on hand for payment, the disbursing officer shall make an appropriate setoff. The disbursing officer shall give the contractor an explanation of the setoff. To the extent that the setoff reduces the debt, the explanation shall replace the demand prescribed in 32.610.

32.612 Withholding and setoff.

During the 30 days following the issuance of a demand, the advisability of withholding payments otherwise due to the contractor shall be considered based on the circumstances of the individual cases. If payment is not completed within 30 days, and deferment is not requested, withholding of principal and interest shall be initiated immediately. In the event the contract is assigned under the Assignment of Claims Act of 1940 (31 U.S.C. 3727 and 41 U.S.C. 15), the rights of the assignee will be scrupulously respected and withholding of payments shall be consistent with those rights. For additional information on assignment of claims, see subpart 32.8.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 51 FR 2665, Jan. 17, 1986]

32.613 Deferment of collection.

(a) If the responsible official receives a written request from the contractor for a deferment of the debt collection or installment payments, the official shall promptly review the request to see if the information included is adequate for action on the request. If not, the contractor shall be asked to furnish the needed information. Any necessary changes to the terms of the proposed deferment/installment agreement shall also be suggested.

(b) If the contractor has appealed the debt under the procedures of the Disputes clause of the contract, the information with the request for deferment may be limited to an explanation of the contractor's financial condition.

(c) If there is no appeal pending or action filed under the Disputes clause of the contract, the following informa-

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tion about the contractor should be submitted with the request:

- (1) Financial condition.
- (2) Contract backlog.
- (3) Projected cash receipts and requirements.
- (4) The feasibility of immediate payment of the debt.
- (5) The probable effect on operations of immediate payment in full.

(d) Although the existence of a contractor appeal of the debt does not of itself require the Government to suspend or delay collection action, the responsible official shall consider whether deferment of the debt collection is advisable to avoid possible overcollection. The responsible official may authorize a deferment pending the resolution of appeal.

(e) Deferments pending disposition of appeal may be granted to small business concerns and financially weak contractors, with a reasonable balance of the need for Government security against loss and undue hardship on the contractor.

(f) If a contractor has not appealed the debt or filed an action under the Disputes clause of the contract, the responsible official may arrange for deferment/installment payments if the contractor is unable to pay at once in full or the contractor's operations under national defense contracts would be seriously impaired. The arrangement shall include appropriate covenants and securities and should be limited to the shortest practicable maturity.

(g) Contracts and arrangements for deferment may not provide that a claim of the Government will not become due and payable pending mutual agreement on the amount of the claim or, in the case of a dispute, until the decision is reached.

(h) At a minimum, the deferment agreement shall contain the following:

- (1) A description of the debt.
- (2) The date of first demand for payment.
- (3) Notice of an interest charge, in conformity with FAR 32.614 and the clause at FAR 52.232-17, Interest; or, in the case of a debt arising from a defective pricing or a CAS noncompliance overpayment, interest, as prescribed by

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the applicable Price Reduction for Defective Cost or Pricing Data or CAS clause.

(4) Identification of the office to which the contractor is to send debt payments.

(5) A requirement for the contractor to submit financial information requested by the Government and for reasonable access to the contractor's records and property by Government representatives.

(6) Provision for the Government to terminate the deferment agreement and accelerate the maturity of the debt if the contractor defaults or if bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings are instituted by or against the contractor.

(7) Protective requirements that are considered by the Government to be prudent and feasible in the specific circumstances. The coverage of protective terms at 32.409 and 32.501-5 may be used as a guide.

(i) If a contractor appeal of the debt determination is pending, the deferment agreement shall also include a requirement that the contractor shall—

(1) Diligently prosecute the appeal; and

(2) Pay the debt in full when the appeal is decided, or when the parties reach agreement on the debt amount.

(j) If the contractor does not plan to appeal the debt or file an action under the Disputes clause of the contract, the deferment/installment agreement shall include a specific schedule or plan for payment. It should permit the Government to make periodic financial reviews of the contractor and to require prepayments if the Government considers the contractor's ability to pay improved. It should also provide for required stated or measurable prepayments on the occurrence of specific events or contingencies that improve the contractor's ability to pay.

(k) If desired by the contractor, the deferment agreement may provide for the right to make prepayments without prejudice, for refund of overpayments, and for crediting of interest (see 32.614-2).

(l) Actions filed by contractors under the Disputes clause shall not suspend or delay collection. Until the action is decided, deferments shall only be

granted if, within 30 days after the filing of such action, the contractor presents to the responsible official a good and sufficient bond, or other collateral acceptable to the responsible official, in the amount of the claim, and approved by the responsible official. Any amount collected by the Government in excess of the amount found to be due on appeal under the Disputes clause of the contract shall be refunded to the contractor with interest thereon from the date of collection by the Government at the annual rate established by the Secretary of Treasury under Pub. L. 92-41. Simple interest shall be calculated through the period of indebtedness to reflect each 6-month period change in the rates established by the Secretary.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 52795, Dec. 21, 1990; 56 FR 29128, June 25, 1991; 61 FR 18922, Apr. 29, 1996]

32.614 Interest.

32.614-1 Interest charges.

(a) Under the clause at 52.232-17, Interest, the responsible official shall apply interest charges to any contract debt unpaid after 30 days from the issuance of a demand, unless—

(1) The contract specifies another due date or procedure for charging or collecting interest;

(2) The contract is a kind excluded under 32.617; or

(3) The contract or debt has been exempted from interest charges under agency procedures.

(b) If not already applicable under the contract terms, interest on contract debt shall be made an element of any agreement entered into on deferment of collection.

(c) Unless specified otherwise in the clause at FAR 52.232-17, the interest charge shall be at the rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury under Public Law 92-41 for the period in which the amount becomes due. The interest charge shall be computed for the actual number of calendar days involved beginning on the due date and ending on—

(1) The date on which the designated office receives payment from the contractor;

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(2) The date of issuance of a Government check to the contractor from which an amount otherwise payable has been withheld as a credit against the contract debt;

(3) The date on which an amount withheld and applied to the contract debt would otherwise have become payable to the contractor; or

(4) The date of any applicable tax credit under 32.607.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 56 FR 29128, June 25, 1991; 61 FR 18922, Apr. 29, 1996]

32.614-2 Interest credits.

(a) An equitable interest credit shall be applied under the following circumstances:

(1) When the amount of debt initially determined is subsequently reduced; e.g., through a successful appeal.

(2) When the collection procedures followed in a given case result in an overcollection of the debt due.

(3) When the responsible official determines that the Government has unduly delayed payments to the contractor on the same contract at some time during the period to which the interest charge applied, provided an interest penalty was not paid for such late payment.

(b) Any appropriate interest credits shall be computed under the following procedures:

(1) Interest at the rate under 32.614-1(c) shall be charged on the reduced debt from the date specified in the first demand made for payment of the higher debt.

(2) Interest may not be reduced for any time between the due date under the demand and the period covered by a deferment of collection, unless the contract includes an interest clause; e.g., the clause prescribed in 32.617.

(3) Interest shall not be credited in an amount that, when added to other amounts refunded or released to the contractor, exceeds the total amount that has been collected, or withheld for the purpose of collecting the debt. This limitation shall be further reduced by the amount of any limitation applicable under 32.614-2(b)(2).

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32.615 Delays in receipt of notices or demands.

If delivery of the demands or notices required by the clause at 52.232-17, Interest, is delayed by the Government (e.g., undue delay after dating at the originating office or delays in the mail), the date of the debt and accrual of interest shall be extended to a time that is fair and reasonable under the particular circumstances.

32.616 Compromise actions.

For debts under \$100,000, excluding interest, if further collection is not practicable or would cost more than the amount of recovery, the agency may compromise the debt or terminate or suspend further collection action. Compromise is authorized by the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 (31 U.S.C. 3711). Compromise actions shall conform to Federal claims collection standards (4 CFR 101-105), and agency regulations.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 51 FR 2665, Jan. 17, 1986; 56 FR 29128, June 25, 1991]

32.617 Contract clause.

(a) The contracting officer shall insert the clause at 52.232-17, Interest, in solicitations and contracts, unless it is contemplated that the contract will be in one or more of the following categories:

(1) Contracts at or below the simplified acquisition threshold.

(2) Contracts with Government agencies.

(3) Contracts with a State or local government or instrumentality.

(4) Contracts with a foreign government or instrumentality.

(5) Contracts without any provision for profit or fee with a nonprofit organization.

(6) Contracts described in subpart 5.5, Paid advertisements.

(7) Any other exceptions authorized under agency procedures.

(b) The contracting officer may insert the clause at 52.232-17, Interest, in solicitations and contracts when it is contemplated that the contract will be

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in any of the categories specified in 32.617(a).

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 60 FR 34759, July 3, 1995]

Subpart 32.7—Contract Funding

32.700 Scope of subpart.

This subpart (a) describes basic requirements for contract funding and (b) prescribes procedures for using limitation of cost or limitation of funds clauses. Detailed acquisition funding requirements are contained in agency fiscal regulations.

32.701 [Reserved]

32.702 Policy.

No officer or employee of the Government may create or authorize an obligation in excess of the funds available, or in advance of appropriations (Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341), unless otherwise authorized by law. Before executing any contract, the contracting officer shall (a) obtain written assurance from responsible fiscal authority that adequate funds are available or (b) expressly condition the contract upon availability of funds in accordance with 32.703-2.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 51 FR 2665, Jan. 17, 1986]

32.703 Contract funding requirements.

32.703-1 General.

(a) If the contract is fully funded, funds are obligated to cover the price or target price of a fixed-price contract or the estimated cost and any fee of a cost-reimbursement contract.

(b) If the contract is incrementally funded, funds are obligated to cover the amount allotted and any corresponding increment of fee.

32.703-2 Contracts conditioned upon availability of funds.

(a) *Fiscal year contracts.* The contracting officer may initiate a contract action properly chargeable to funds of the new fiscal year before these funds are available, *provided* that the contract includes the clause at 52.232-18, Availability of Funds (see 32.705-1(a)). This authority may be used only for

operation and maintenance and continuing services (e.g., rentals, utilities, and supply items not financed by stock funds) (1) necessary for normal operations and (2) for which Congress previously had consistently appropriated funds, unless specific statutory authority exists permitting applicability to other requirements.

(b) *Indefinite-quantity or requirements contracts.* A one-year indefinite-quantity or requirements contract for services that is funded by annual appropriations may extend beyond the fiscal year in which it begins; *provided*, that (1) any specified minimum quantities are certain to be ordered in the initial fiscal year (see 37.106) and (2) the contract includes the clause at 52.232-19, Availability of Funds for the Next Fiscal Year (see 32.705-1(b)).

(c) *Acceptance of supplies or services.* The Government shall not accept supplies or services under a contract conditioned upon the availability of funds until the contracting officer has given the contractor notice, to be confirmed in writing, that funds are available.

[48 FR 42328, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 67 FR 13054, Mar. 20, 2002]

32.703-3 Contracts crossing fiscal years.

(a) A contract that is funded by annual appropriations may not cross fiscal years, except in accordance with statutory authorization (e.g., 41 U.S.C. 11a, 31 U.S.C. 1308, 42 U.S.C. 2459a, 42 U.S.C. 3515, and paragraph (b) of this subsection), or when the contract calls for an end product that cannot feasibly be subdivided for separate performance in each fiscal year (e.g., contracts for expert or consultant services).

(b) The head of an executive agency, except NASA, may enter into a contract, exercise an option, or place an order under a contract for severable services for a period that begins in one fiscal year and ends in the next fiscal year if the period of the contract awarded, option exercised, or order placed does not exceed one year (10 U.S.C. 2410a and 41 U.S.C. 2531). Funds made available for a fiscal year may be obligated for the total amount of an